

FY 21 Title IV, Part A Personalized Learning Grants

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the definition of personalized learning?

“Personalization means a diverse variety of educational programs, learning experiences, instructional approaches and academic support strategies that are intended to address the distinct learning needs, interests, aspirations or cultural backgrounds of individual students”. 200-RICR-20-10-2

Supplemental education programs, learning experiences, instructional approaches and academic support strategies, including tutoring and summer enrichment, must align with one of the content areas in Title IV, Part A (Title IV-A) of ESSA.

Fiscal Questions

2. Are FY 21 Title IV-A Personalized Learning Grant funds available for carryover?

No, funds are not eligible for carryover and must be expended by 9/30/21.

3. When do the FY 21 Title IV-A Personalized Learning Grant funds need to be encumbered by?

An LEA may have open obligations as of the last day of the project. The expectation is that an LEA will closeout (file their final expenditure report) within 45 days after the end of the project. In order to file an FER, all obligations must be liquidated/closed out. So, If an LEA will be unable to finalize any open order within the closeout period (45 days after project end date), then those open orders need to be cancelled.

Equitable Services Questions

4. Which private schools does a district need to set aside funds for as part of the application process?

Title IV-A requires districts to consult with eligible private schools physically located in their district.

5. Our grant application is for K – 8 students? Does our district only need to set aside funds for private schools that serve K – 8 students in the district?

No, districts must set aside funds for all private schools located within the district.

6. Does our district need to consult with eligible private schools before submitting our grant application?

No, districts with eligible private schools only need to set funds aside for equitable services as part of the application process. Successful applicants will be required to complete the consultation process with eligible private schools. Additional information will be provided to successful applications to support this process.

7. If I budget for what the cost of our program request actually costs and then put it in the calculator, we won't have sufficient funds for the program. However, if I add additional funds to cover fair share and have enough to run our program, is that okay?

Unfortunately, no. LEAs with eligible private school programs need to first reserve funds for equitable services to private schools. Once the LEA sets aside funds for equitable services, it can then create a program proposal with the remaining funds for participating public school children.

8. If our LEA does receive an award, and one of the eligible private schools chooses not to participate, what would happen to those funds?

If that should happen, the LEA could work with RIDE to amend their application and use those funds to support the approved activities.

9. The equitable services component of this grant does not apply to our district. I have indicated that in the three questions on the cover page. Should I complete the equitable calculator and submit or can I remove it seeing that it does not apply to us?

All components of the application should be submitted.

General Questions

10. Do I have to use the template for the grant or can I create a Word document that answers the questions? I am finding it difficult to explain the program thoroughly because of the segmentation of the template.

While an LEA does not need to use the actual activity “table” in the current word template, the questions do need to be answered in sequential order for each proposed activity or strategy. To do this, an LEA could copy and paste each question and prompt into a word document, then provide the response after each question.

A template, without tables, has been posted on with the grant materials.